

# TMCTA

Tennessee Medical Cannabis Trade Association

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## **TMCTA WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR HB 1749/SB 1710**

*Bill No Longer Includes Regulatory Framework Critical to Providing Safe Patient Access to Medical Cannabis*

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Medical Cannabis Trade Association (TMCTA) Executive Director Glenn Anderson today announced the association is withdrawing its support for HB 1749/SB 1710, or the Medical Cannabis Only Act, but encouraged supporters of medical cannabis to stay engaged in the issue.

“This year the conversation in Tennessee around medical cannabis has moved farther than ever before with broad recognition across the state that medical cannabis will come to Tennessee,” Anderson said. “After careful consideration the association can no longer support the legislation because a structured, transparent and accountable regulatory framework is critical to providing safe patient access to medical cannabis.”

The original legislation would have allowed Tennessee patients with specific health conditions safe access to regulated medical cannabis oil-based manufactured products only. However, on March 21 an amendment put forward by the bill’s prime House sponsor Rep. Jeremy Faison (R-Cosby) was adopted and removed all language creating a safe, transparent and accountable business and regulatory model critical to providing safe patient access to lab-tested, pharmaceutical-grade medical cannabis.

“The TMCTA is deeply disappointed this opportunity to build a projected billion-dollar industry in Tennessee that would meet the medical needs of tens of thousands of Tennesseans will be missed,” Anderson said. “The TMCTA will remain engaged on this issue in the future to make sure Tennessee does not continue to deny its sickest residents the freedom to work with their doctors and the right to try a treatment that works best for them. We encourage the 80 percent of Tennesseans who support medical cannabis statewide to do the same.”

Two-thirds of the U.S. already has access to medical cannabis but not Tennesseans. In the legislation’s current form, Tennesseans will lose out on an industry projected to reach \$20 billion in six years, and the black market will remain the only choice for otherwise law-abiding citizens seeking effective treatment for their medical conditions.

*The TMCTA is the leading group of business entrepreneurs, researchers and patient advocates in support of providing Tennesseans safe patient access to medical cannabis tested by Tennesseans for Tennesseans.*

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